



# Chair Phyllis J. Randall

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## Newsletter



## Hello, Loudoun

I want to thank Judy Brown and Richard Keech from our election office. They have done a remarkable job following all CDC and VDH guidelines for safe voting. The last day to vote early is October 31st. For information about early voting locations and times, including drop boxes, please visit the [November election website](#). If you vote in-person on election day, November 3rd, polls will be open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. In the Community Information section, please see three precinct changes that will affect in-person voting in the Ashburn, Dulles and Catoclin Districts. Thank you!

## Unmet Housing Needs Public Input

Members of the public are invited to take part in a series of community conversations on the development of the Loudoun County Unmet Housing Needs Strategic Plan (UHNSP). The purpose of the UHNSP is to identify goals and strategies that address unmet housing needs in a systematic and comprehensive way. The plan will also aim to create housing targets over the short term (the next five years) and the long term.

When we received an update from staff on the plan, I highlighted the need for affordable homes to purchase because I believe homeownership is what creates generational wealth. It is challenging to purchase a market rate unit after being in an ADU rental unit. The missing piece is a homeownership purchase program that allows those in need to purchase a home (please see the unmet housing needs continuum below). To learn more about the planning process and the County's initiatives to address housing needs, visit the [project website](#).

## Unmet Housing Needs Continuum



Requires different approach and resources at each level of need.

The first virtual meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 28th from 12:00 to 1:00 pm and the second meeting is scheduled on Thursday, October 29th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Both meetings will include a short presentation from the plan team and provide an opportunity for attendees to provide input and ask any questions.

Information on how to participate in the Webex Events remote meeting is posted [here](#). Anyone who would like to submit questions in advance, or would like to provide comments or suggestions on unmet housing needs in Loudoun County, may [e-mail the project team](#) or call 703-771-5590.

**Virtual public meetings on Loudoun's housing needs.**

**Oct. 28 - Noon**

**Oct. 29 - 6:00 p.m.**

[loudoun.gov/HousingNeeds](http://loudoun.gov/HousingNeeds)

## Collective Bargaining

At the October 20th Board business meeting, I sponsored a **Board Member Initiative** to permit labor associations and organizations with a membership of over 100 people, whose members serve the citizens of Loudoun County and are employees of Loudoun County, to hold open houses, twice per year in the Shenandoah, Ridgetop and County Government Buildings for the purpose of educating employees and welcoming new members (motion passed 6 to 3).

Collective bargaining legislation passed the Virginia General Assembly (**HB 582**) and, in May 2021, individual counties can begin the process of considering collective bargaining agreements and meeting with union representatives and members pursuant to collective bargaining negotiations. I believe we should prepare for what is coming in May. The Board will need to adopt an ordinance to enact collective bargaining and this process will include public input.

## Village of St. Louis

Recently, the County purchased 16 acres in the historic village of St. Louis to prevent a residential development and place the land under conservation easement for a passive recreation area. The 16 acre property has numerous historic resources that contribute to the historic fabric of the village of St. Louis, including a large cemetery and a historic road. This property is important for its role in the development of the village of St. Louis, which became one of the largest African-American communities in Loudoun County. There are 16 wells that have already been drilled on this property and my goal is to allow access to these high performing wells by adjacent properties.

I want to thank everyone in the historic village of St. Louis. Together we found a path forward to conserve the land and protect your wells. Thank you County staff for making this happen and the developer for your willingness to negotiate a solution that benefits the St. Louis residents.

## Purchase of Development Rights Program

At the Rural Summit in November 2018, there was broad consensus from residents that they want all tools available to conserve farmland. Last term, I sponsored a Board Member Initiative (BMI) to study the potential reestablishment of a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program because it is a proven conservation tool that has been successful in 22 Virginia localities (it did not pass on a 3 to 6 vote).

PDR programs allow localities to take a direct role in land conservation by extinguishing the development rights of significant agricultural, natural, scenic, and historic resources. It saves taxpayer money by avoiding the costs of providing services to new residential development. I am pleased to report that a PDR program has finally been approved and will be developed in Loudoun County (please see **item** from October 20th board

meeting). Staff estimates that the program structure and ordinance amendments could be in place to implement by the end of calendar year 2021.

## Strategic Plan

On October 26th, the Board held a **Strategic Planning Retreat** to identify strategic initiatives that put into action the vision and goals of the Board during our four year term. The following 5 strategic focus areas were discussed:

- Outdoor Recreation/Open Space/Environment
- Connecting Loudoun
- Meet and Confer/Collective Bargaining
- Equitable Communities
- Economic Development

At the retreat, the strategic focus areas will be defined in terms of desired outcomes at the end of the Board's term. Staff will bring to the Board a work plan outlining the steps to accomplish the strategic initiatives. The strategic plan is really important because it is what we will do as a Board together.

## Loudoun Awarded USDA Grant

We have been awarded a \$250,000 Farmers Market Promotion Program grant from the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA), which will be used to ramp up the Loudoun Made Loudoun Grown Marketplace. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Loudoun Economic Development launched an e-commerce platform to help Loudoun's 1,200 farmers better reach their consumer base. The Marketplace currently showcases 643 Loudoun-sourced products from 42 Loudoun farms on a no-cost e-commerce platform.

I am pleased to be awarded this USDA grant, which will help take the Loudoun Made Loudoun Grown Marketplace to the next level. Businesses need stronger connections to customers and Loudoun residents will now have more access to locally grown food. This is a win for everyone.

## 5th Round Business Interruption Fund

The \$3.3 million of funding from the 5th round was awarded to 660 licensed businesses that have between zero and 100 employees, had less than \$5 million in gross annual receipts, and could demonstrate at least a 25% loss in revenue attributed to COVID-19.

The applicant pool for this round was the most inclusive to date, including 261 self-identified women-owned businesses, 174 minority-owned businesses, and 23 businesses that requested translation services. Grant recipients represent a cross-section of Loudoun's diverse economy, including businesses located in all of Loudoun's incorporated towns. A full list of grant recipients can be found [here](#).

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

I submitted a [proclamation](#) to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. People who are surviving violence in their relationships and families may be experiencing increased isolation and danger caused by social distancing measures during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Loudoun County Domestic Abuse and Response Team (DART) has developed a video (see below) and [webpage](#) to highlight available local resources.



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Thank you and please remember to vote!

Sincerely,  
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## Investing in Transportation

### **Lane Closures at Eastbound Route 7 and the Belmont Ridge Road Interchange:**

Motorists should be prepared for traffic delays at the interchange of eastbound Route 7 and Belmont Ridge Road, Wednesday, October 28th, when Loudoun County will be making asphalt repairs within the outer eastbound lane of Route 7. The repair work is scheduled to begin at 9:30 am and conclude by 3:00 pm. This construction will require a single lane closure to eastbound traffic resulting in possible delays to the traveling public.

### **Route 15 North from Battlefield Parkway to Montresor Road:**

Members of the public are invited to join a virtual meeting on Thursday, October 29th from 6:00 to 7:30 pm to learn and ask questions about the project to widen Route 15 from two to four lanes between Battlefield Parkway and Montresor Road.

**Meeting materials** and **login information** are available for review. Meeting materials include detailed corridor diagrams, speaker sign-up information and a comment form. Members of the public must sign up in advance by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, October 28th, to ask questions during the event. Online participants may also send questions to the project team as chat messages, which will be answered during the meeting as time allows.

Route 15 North website

## Community Information

**Precinct location changes for the November 3rd election:** The Loudoun County Office of Elections and Voter Registration has sent notices to voters in the affected precincts:

- Precinct 819 – Heritage Church in the Ashburn Election District has been moved to Broad Run High School, 21670 Ashburn Road. The precinct's official name is Heritage Church, which reflects the previous voting location of Heritage Baptist Church. A new, permanent location for the precinct will be sought after the November election.
- Precinct 118 – Moorefield in the Dulles Election District has been moved to Briar Woods High School, 22525 Belmont Ridge Road.
- Precinct 401 – West Lovettsville in the Catoclin Election District is returning to its original location of the Lovettsville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station, 12837 Berlin Turnpike.

**Transit System Adjustments Begin November 2nd:** Due to changes in passenger demands, the number of trips on some existing routes will be reduced, while new Commuter Bus routes will be added to include stops at Dulles South (Stone Ridge II) and East Gate Park and Ride lots. Details on the service adjustments are available **online**.

**Cold Weather Shelter:** The Loudoun County Cold Weather Shelter will open Sunday, November 15th for adults who are experiencing a housing crisis resulting in homelessness. The shelter, which provides a warm indoor sleeping environment, meals, and shower facilities, will be open 7 pm to 7 am seven nights a week through March 31st. It is located at the Loudoun Homeless Services Center at 19520 Meadowview Court in Leesburg. The county will provide free transportation to the shelter with shuttle buses departing nightly at 5 pm from Williams Watters House, 22365 Enterprise Street in Sterling, and 6 pm from Douglass Community Center, 405 East Market Street in Leesburg. Face coverings, temperature checks, and COVID-19 symptom screenings will be required to board the bus or be admitted to the shelter. For adults age 18 or older, please call 571-258-3033 for assistance.

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services Master Planning Process:** The goal of the planning process will be a five to 10-year vision for parks, recreation, open space and trails. Community input is a key component to developing a comprehensive parks and recreation system plan. Over the next several months, you will have several opportunities to participate. Virtual workshops will be held to provide opportunities for input and a random sampling of County residents will be conducted to participate in a statistically valid survey. In addition, we invite you to share your comments, suggestions and ideas with the master planning team using this **online form**. The project duration is 12 months with an anticipated completion date of fall 2021.

**Loudoun Toys for Tots:** Due to the current situation requiring self-distancing, wearing masks, keeping hands washed/disinfected and avoiding large crowds, the Loudoun County Toys for Tots has come up with a plan for the 2020 season that would make it safe for all involved and still provide toys to children in need. It has partnered with four local nonprofit organizations (Help for Others, LINK, Mobile Hope and The Salvation Army) who will handle the registration. Toys will be ordered online and shipped directly to each of the four partnering organizations for distribution to the families on their scheduled dates. Toys will not be collected this year to minimize handling. The best way to support the program is to make an online donation by mid-November. To donate online, visit the local Loudoun County Toys for Tots **website** and click on the "Donate Local" red button.

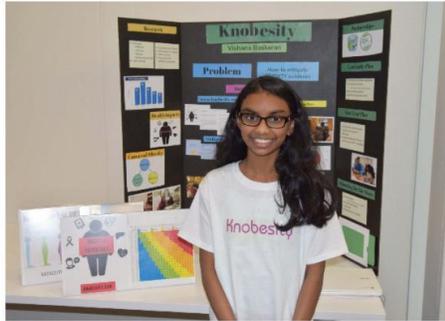
# TOYS FOR TOTS



**U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE**

For more information go to [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org)

PRESENTED BY:



## 2020-21 VIRTUAL STEP UP LOUDOUN YOUTH COMPETITION

Empowering all students to make meaningful contributions  
to their community or to the world around them.

**LEARN MORE AT [LOUDOUNYOUTH.ORG](http://LOUDOUNYOUTH.ORG)**

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

\$25 PER PARTICIPANT

*IF EVER THERE WAS A YEAR WHEN OUR YOUTH NEEDED FEEL GOOD  
ACTIVITIES TO DO OUTSIDE THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM, **THIS IS IT.***

Working as a team or individually, middle and high school youth across the county are encouraged to identify an issue of their choice and share their project during the (virtual) Step Up Loudoun Youth Competition and win \$\$ for their hard work.

**SPONSORS:**



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